FANTAGRAPHICS PRESS
RICHARD CORBEN'S
IN COLOR!
$2
$2.75 IN CANADA
CHILDREN OF FIRE
NUMBER 2 OF 3
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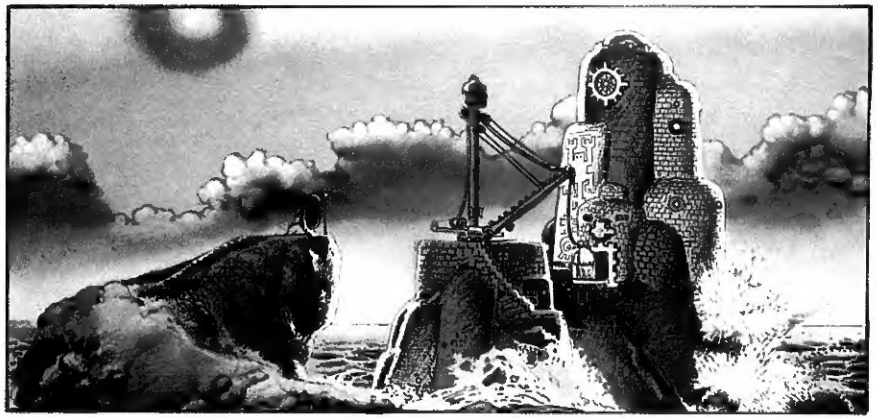

**PUBLISHING COMICS IN 1987**

PUBLISHING COMICS IS **GREAT,... IF** YOU CAN PRODUCE A WHOLE COLOR LINE ON A MONTHLY, BI-WEEKLY, OR WEEKLY SCHEDULE; **IF** YOU HAVE A DOZEN OR SO CHARACTERS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR TWENTY YEARS; **IF** YOU HAVE AN INCREDIBLY COMPLICATED NETWORK OF CROSSOVERS PLANNED; AND, **IF** RETAILERS WILL ORDER YOUR BOOKS WITHOUT KNOWING OR CARING WHAT'S INSIDE.

BUT WITHOUT SOME OR ANY OF THE FEATURES ABOVE, PUBLISHING COMICS IS **NOT** SO **GREAT.**

SO WHAT? WE LIKE MAKING COMICS. AND WE HOPE YOU LIKE THE COMICS WE MAKE.


CREDITS:

**CHILDREN OF FIRE** WRITTEN, DRAWN, COLORED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD CORBEN.

**NECROMANCER** WRITTEN, DRAWN AND COLORED BY RICHARD CORBEN.

**OTEQ** WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY RICHARD CORBEN. COLORED BY PHILLIP DEWALT.

MAIL ORDER AND GENERAL SUPPORT BY DONA CORBEN.

**CHILDREN OF FIRE 2. CHILDREN OF FIRE** IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY FANTAGOR PRESS, A DIVISION OF CORBEN STUDIOS; P.O. BOX 8632; KANSAS CITY, MO. 64114. **CHILDREN OF FIRE** COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY RICHARD CORBEN. **NECROMANCER** COPYRIGHT © 1972, 1988 BY RICHARD CORBEN. FIRST PUBLISHED IN **GRIMWIT** THIS VERSION IS SLIGHTLY REDRAWN, HAS ONE ADDITIONAL PAGE AND IS IN COLOR. **OTEQ** COPYRIGHT © 1971, 1988 BY RICHARD CORBEN. FIRST PUBLISHED IN **PROMETHIAN ENTERPRISES PRESENTS 3.** THIS VERSION IS IN COLOR. THE ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY RICHARD CORBEN. ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN NAMES, CHARACTERS, PERSONS OR INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COMIC BOOK AND THOSE OF ANY REAL PERSONS OR INSTITUTIONS IS COINCIDENTAL.


**HERE'S SOME LETTERS WE RECEIVED ABOUT CHILDREN OF FIRE #1.**

DEAR RICHARD AND DONA,

RICHARD, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU EVER HEARD OF ME OR MY SMALL COMICS STUDIO OR ANY OF THE COMICS WE HAVE DONE UP TO THIS POINT. I WAS IN *YELLOW DOG 22*, AND WAS IN *UNDERGROUNDS* A BIT, AND I HAVE A COMPLETE SET OF ALL OLD UNDERGROUNDS. THUS MY *DISAPPOINTMENT!* I SPEND $2.00 LIKE EVERYONE ELSE BUT I GET *OVER, WAY OVER 1/2 REPEATS!* AND WORST OF ALL 18 PAGES OF ADS OF STUFF I ALREADY HAVE, TO 13 *MEASLY NEW PAGES! BOOOOOOO!*

WHAT'S WORSE IS THE *RAZAR* STORY BEING DONE FOR B&W ORIGINALLY, BEING COLORED NOW *IS WAY, WAY TOO DARK!* YOU KNOW IT IS RICHARD. A GEM AS FANTASTIC AS YOU MUST KNOW. THIS WAS MY COMPLAINT WITH *RIP IN TIME*. I HAVE *ALL* THOSE BACK UP STORIES TOO, AS DO *MOST OF YOUR FANS!*

MOST OF YOUR REAL FANS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU SINCE THE EARLY 70'S OR BEFORE AS I HAVE. I GET *EXTREMELY* DISAPPOINTED AND EVEN FEEL RIPPED OFF A BIT WHEN, IN *ALL YOUR NEWER* COMICS TO GET A MINOR 13 PAGE STORY, I MUST BUY 18 PAGES OF *RERUNS. TO SPEAR A FAIR MAIDEN* WAS EVEN *IN COLOR. FANTAGOR # 1* HAS THE COMPLETE FIRST *RAZAR STORY* AND I DON'T THINK IT'S *THAT* MUCH BETTER IN COLOR WITH A FEW REWRITTEN LINES. *PLEASE RICHARD! NEW MATERIAL!* I WOULD RATHER PAY $3.00-$3.50 FOR A 32 PAGE *ALL NEW CORBEN* COMIC THAN $2.00 FOR A COVER AND 13 PAGES AS I AM NOW! I FEEL BURNT BY THIS RERUN TRIP YOU HAVE MADE US BUY. *RICHARD*, LOOK! I WOULD HAVE RATHER WRITTEN THIS LETTER TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE THE BEST COLORIST AND AIRBRUSH USER OF THE 70'S AND 80'S, AND THAT YOUR WRITING IS VERY FUN AND GREAT, AND THAT YOU SHOULD DO *BOTH* COLOR AND B&W COMICS *AT THE SAME TIME!* HAVE A SET OF B&W COMICS RUNNING AND COLOR ONES IF YOU CAN. GET A GOOD ASSISTANT TO WORK WITH YOU AND DO ALL YOUR LABORS LIKE ERASING AND SO FORTH.

*PLEASE RICHARD*, IF *ANYTHING* KEEPS ME FROM NOT BUYING *THE REMAINING* 2 ISSUES, IT WILL BE THAT I HAVE *BOUGHT* THE BACK UP STORIES YOU ARE PUTTING IN *#2*, ONE IN *GRIM WIT* FROM *RIP OFF PRESS* AND *FANTAGOR'S #1-2*.

OOPS, MAYBE I DON'T HAVE *OTEQ*, I *HOPE* I DON'T. BUT *PLEASE* DON'T USE THE STORIES IN *ANOMALLY* OR *FEVER DREAMS!* OR *ANY* OF YOUR OLDER STUFF. *AS FAR AS* I'M CONCERNED, YOU *DETRACT* FROM YOUR OLD STUFF BY REPRINTING IT AND MAKING IT SO YOU CAN GET IT *IN NEW* COMICS. LOTS OF US WORKED VERY HARD TO COLLECT YOUR ARTWORK, CHECKING THROUGH *MOUNTAINS OF UNDERGROUNDS* (IN THE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S) TO FIND 6-8 PAGES OF *YOUR WORK!* OFTEN YOUR ARTWORK WAS THE ONLY SAVING GRACE IN THE *WHOLE COMIC!* AND NOW, THESE OLD CLASSICS ARE BEING BASTARDIZED (TO ME) AND REUSED ENMASSE AS OVER 1/2 OF YOUR *NEW COMICS! PLEASE LET THE B&W OF THE PAST B&W!* I FEEL YOU ARE DOING THE SAME *EXACT THING* THAT *TED TURNER* HAS DONE WITH THE *MALTESE FALCON* AND OTHER CLASSIC B&W MOVIES, COLORING THEM WITH COMPUTER. WELL, YOU'RE NOT THAT BAD, BUT YOU SHOW *MORE REPEATS THAN HIS CHANNEL, TBS!*

CRAIG A. STORMON
BLUE COMET PRESS
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA.

**CRAIG, AS A PUBLISHER YOURSELF, YOU MUST REALIZE THE BUSINESS WE'RE IN IS LIKE ALL BUSINESS. OUR COMIC MUST BE SUCCESSFUL OR IT CAN'T CONTINUE. FOR ME THAT MEANS CUTTING OVERHEAD. EXPENSES WHEREVER POSSIBLE WITHOUT DEGRADING THE ARTISTIC QUALITY TOO MUCH, AND STILL GET THE BOOK PUBLISHED ON SCHEDULE. DECISIONS ARE MADE EVERY DAY WHERE INTEGRITY AND ECONOMY ARE IN APPARENT CONFLICT. I GUESS YOUR COMPLAINTS ARE MAINLY ABOUT THE USE OF OLD REPRINTED FEATURES AS BACK UPS AND THE COLORING OF FORMERLY BLACK AND WHITE STRIPS.**

**I WOULD LOVE TO DO A COMIC OF ALL NEW MATERIAL, BUT I KNOW I COULDN'T PRODUCE SUCH A BOOK ON A BI-MONTHLY SCHEDULE. SEE, I DO TRY TO MAINTAIN ARTISTIC INTEGRITY IN SOME WAYS. AS A PUBLISHER, YOU KNOW THERE IS A CORRELATION OF SALES TO PUBLISHING FREQUENCY. QUARTERLY COMICS AND "ONE SHOTS" WOULD BE SUICIDE FOR ME. SO THE CHOICE IS NARROWED TO USING REPRINTS OR ANOTHER CARTOONIST. THERE WILL BE OTHER ARTISTS IN FANTAGOR COMICS EVENTUALLY, BUT FOR NOW, THE ARTISTS I WOULD CHOOSE ARE BEYOND OUR BUDGET. SO I USE REPRINTS. I TRY TO PICK ONES THAT HAVE THE LEAST EXPOSURE AND I KNOW THE ORIGINAL PRINT RUNS OF THE UNDERGROUND FANTAGOR'S WAS UNDER 10,000. THIS NEW PUBLICATION WILL REACH APPROXIMATELY TWICE THAT NUMBER. FOR THE READERS, LIKE YOU, WHO FEEL CHEATED, I TRIED TO ADD SOMETHING NEW: COLOR.**

**SOME ARTISTS HAVE A HARD TIME "FINISHING" A WORK. NOT JUST PICTORIAL ARTISTS, BUT COMPOSERS, WRITERS, DANCERS, SCULPTORS, OCCASIONALLY GO BACK AND REWORK OLD PIECES. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS. YOUR CRITICISM ABOUT COLORING AN OLD STRIP WOULD ONLY HAVE MERIT IF I DID A POOR JOB OF IT. RAZAR THE UNHERO WAS NOT TOO DARK IN COLOR. YOU MIGHT BE MORE JUSTIFIED IN SAYING THE BLACK AND WHITE VERSION WAS TOO DARK. TO SPEAR A FAIR MAIDEN MIGHT BE A LITTLE DARK BUT THIS IS BECAUSE OF A SPECIAL ENGRAVING TECHNIQUE USED ON IT. I MADE A FULL COLOR OVERLAY FOR EACH PAGE, SHOT TRANSPARENCIES OF THE OVERLAY AND THE TONAL ART, SANDWICHED THEM TOGETHER AND SENT THEM TO BE LASER SCANNED. NECROMANCER IN THIS ISSUE ALSO USES THE SAME TECHNIQUE BUT I HOPE IT COMES OUT BETTER.**


LETTERS CONTINUED ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER.



LETTERS CONTINUED FROM THE INSIDE FRONT COVER.


DEAR CORBENS,

CONGRATS ON *CHILDREN OF FIRE* SERIES. SOME CHARACTERS AND SETTINGS ARE FAMILIAR. THE COLOR IS GREAT AS USUAL. ONE THING THOUGH, HALF OF THE BOOK IS 'ORIGINAL', THE OTHER IS 'REPRINT'. THE ENDING LEAVES ONE HANGING. JUST LIKE THE OLD *HEAVY METAL* INSTALLMENTS.

BRAVO ON THE PRINTS ADVERTISED ON THE COVERS OF THE *RIP IN TIME* SERIES, *LABYRINTH* AND *UNDER THE OAK*. IMPRESSIVE!

ROUGH ESTIMATE INDICATES *C.OF F.* WILL BE AROUND 40-50 PAGES LONG. HINT. MAYBE AFTER THE *C.OF F.* SERIES, A FRESH, NEVER BEFORE SEEN 50 PAGE FULL COLOR GRAPHIC NOVEL. POSSIBLE? *MUTANT WORLD* NEEDS A COMPANION. MAYBE A PORTFOLIO? I THINK *FANTAGOR PRESS'S* TIME HAS COME.

ASIDE FROM POPULAR GRAPHIC NOVELS OR "REPRINTED" COMIC (ABOVE GROUND) WORK PUT TOGETHER IN ONE PACKAGE, THE MAJORITY OF COMICS AVAILABLE ARE *JUNK*. (SAD TO SAY BUT TRUE.)

BACK ISSUES WERE MY MAIN SOURCE, SUCH AS *ECLIPSE'S NIGHT MUSIC, STAR REACH CLASSICS; PACIFIC'S DEMON DREAMS, MS. MYSTIC, RAVENS AND RAINBOWS*, ETC.

THE TIME IS RIPE. YOUR TIME HAS COME.

D. GARZA
WASHINGTON

P.S. WHERE IS *DEN*?

**I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED SOME OF YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PREVIOUS LETTER EXCEPT,... IF SOME OF THE CHARACTERS ARE FAMILIAR, I HAVE A REASON WHICH WILL BE REVEALED LATER.**

**AN ALL NEW 80 PAGE COLOR GRAPHIC NOVEL? IMPOSSIBLE! IN 1982, WE SAVED UP OUR MONEY AND SPENT SIX MONTHS PRODUCING JEREMY BROOD. IT FLOPPED! WELL, NOT COMPLETELY, BUT WE WERE BURNED IN OUR BUSINESS DEALINGS. I WOULD LIKE TO DO A PORTFOLIO BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD SELL WELL ENOUGH.**

**DEN IS IN UNKNOWN TERRITORY FOR NOW. BEFORE I HAD A FALLING OUT WITH HEAVY METAL, I WROTE TWO DEN STORIES WHICH ARE NOW ON THE SHELF. (SIGH!)**

DEAR MR CORBEN:

I HAVE ADMIRED YOUR WORK FOR YEARS. EVEN IF YOU AREN'T HAVING A CONTEST, IT WAS FUN DECIPHERING YOUR CODE.

ONE SMALL NOTE: THE WORD, WARRIOR, IS SPELLED WRONG ON PAGE TEN. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK. I AGREE THAT BLACK AND WHITE OR COLOR ARE BOTH GOOD MEDIUMS. BUT I MUST SAY I LIKE THE COLORING JOB ON YOUR WORK.

MICHAEL SCRUGGS
FERNDALE, WA.

**ME, MISSPELL A WORD? IT CAN'T BE. ALAS, THE TRUTH IS OUT. DONA PROOFREADS AND CORRECTS EVERYTHING, BUT THE CODE WAS "TOP SECRET" AND SHE NEVER SAW IT UNTIL AFTER IT WAS PRINTED.**

MR. CORBEN,

SWITCHING T AND H MAKES FOR SOME WEIRD SOUNDS AND YOU SPELLED WARRIORS WRONG BUT OTHERWISE THIS IS REAL COOL.

CRAIG MAHER
POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

**ALL RIGHT ALREADY, I MISSPELLED A WORD.**

DEAR MR. CORBEN,

*#1 OF CHILDREN OF FIRE* IS GREAT--I'M IN FOR THE WHOLE SERIES--KEEP IT GOING--THE REPRINTS ARE GREAT! I HAD NEVER SEEN EITHER OF THOSE PIECES BEFORE. THE PRINTER DEFINITELY DIDN'T LET YOU DOWN THIS TIME. I AM A HARD-CORE CORBEN FAN (HARD CORBEN?).

I LOVE ALL YOUR STUFF AND I WILL SUPPORT ANY PROJECT YOU WANT TO TAKE ON. THE COLOR IS WORTH THE SLIGHT EXTRA CHARGE--NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. IN FACT, IF YOU WANT TO REPRINT *RIP IN TIME* IN COLOR, I'LL BUY IT ALL OVER AGAIN.

*VIC AND BLOOD* IS EXCELLENT ALSO. MR. ELLISON'S SCRIPT COMPLIMENTS YOUR ARTWORK VERY WELL, AS DOES JAN STRNAD'S IN THE LAST STORY IN *C.OF F.*

I'M SICK OF BLACK AND WHITE COMICS AND I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS IT. ANYONE WHO SAW ALL 3 ISSUES OF *DINOSAUR REX* (#1 IN COLOR, 2&3 IN B&W) OR WHO COMPARES STRNAD & FUJITAKE'S *"DALGODA"* WITH THEIR NEW COMIC, *"RETIEF,"* WOULD HAVE TO BE BLIND TO SAY THAT COLOR DOESN'T ADD ANOTHER WHOLE DIMENSION TO ANY GOOD COMIC.

ENOUGH RANTING--KEEP THE GREAT WORK COMING--IN COLOR--AND I'LL KEEP BUYING THEM.

F.J. HANNON
BOSTON, MASS.

**I PRAY FOR ABOUT 60,000 MORE READERS LIKE YOU F.J.**

**THE FAMOUS ALIEN LANGUAGE CODE**

THE LETTER REPLACEMENT CODE USED IN **CHILDREN OF FIRE #1** AND THIS ISSUE TO PORTRAY THE LANGUAGE OF KIL AND MAL WENT LIKE THIS:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
U Z Y X E W V T O J R Q P N G M L K S H A G F D C B

AND HERE IS THE TRANSLATION BEGINNING WITH PAGE 9 OF **CHILDREN OF FIRE #1**

PAGE 9

KIL: WAKE UP, MAL.

MAL: EERK! COUGH! COUGH!

MAL: F-FOOD...

MAL: I SENSE DANGER.

KIL: DO YOURSELF A FAVOR DUDE...LEAVE US ALONE!

KIL: YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!

PAGE 10

MAL: YOU ARE ONE OF THE WARRIORS, A KIL. DID THE PROTOQUEEN SURVIVE? DID ANY EGGS SURVIVE?

KIL: MAL...I...I SAW SOME RUPTURED ONES. I FEAR MANY ARE BEING EATEN BY THE NATIVE LIFE FORMS.

MAL: I SENSE SOME NEARBY. NOT IN THE WATER.

KIL: THEN WE MUST FIND THEM!

PAGE 11

MAL: KIL, IT'S NO USE! **DAMN THE LUCK!** AND DAMN THE CREATURES OF THIS WORLD!

KIL: NO, A SEA FORM INTERVENED WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED UNDERWATER. AND IT BORE US TO THE SHORE.

KIL: WHAT IS THIS?

MAL: **YOU FOOL!** IT'S THE **POWER** SECTION OF OUR SPACE SHIP! IT'S EMITTING **LETHAL RADIATION!**

MAL: **GREAT!** WE'LL EITHER DIE OF EXPOSURE, STARVATION OR **RADIATION!**

SO MUCH FOR OUR NEW COLONY.

OUR CHANCES HAVE SLIPPED FROM **SLIM** TO **NONE!**

KIL: WE ARE ALIVE...AND UNTIL WE'RE DEAD, WE HAVE A PURPOSE.

SUCH TALK DESTROYS OUR WILL.

KIL: I'M SORRY I STRUCK YOU, MAL.

MAL: HMF!

THIS ISSUE, PAGE 5

MAL: I THINK THERE ARE SEVERAL EGGS LEFT. THEY'RE IN THIS BUILDING.

TRY TO RESTRAIN YOUR MARTIAL TENDENCIES. WE MIGHT RETRIEVE THEM PEACEFULLY.

PAGE 6

MAL: I'M TOO WEAK TO MAKE THE JUMP.

MAL: I SMELL FOOD.

I'M HUNGRY.

PAGE 7

MAL: I'M SO WEAK AND TIRED.

MAL: I'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

MAL: **FOOD!**

PAGE 10

MAL: HAVE YOU FOOD?

MAL: PLEASE GIVE ME FOOD.

MAL: OH, YOU'RE A SAINT. YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE.

MAL: I'M AFRAID MY FRIEND, KIL, IS ON A DOOMED ERRAND ABOVE. I SENSE THE EGGS ARE BEING QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED, ONE BY ONE.

YOU AND I MUST ESCAPE.

PAGE 12

MAL: DANGER!

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. CATCH US IN MARCH WITH NUMBER 3. KIL AND ZOMUK RESORT TO VIOLENCE (AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS), MAL AND THE COOK TRY TO ESCAPE AND THERE'S BIG TROUBLE ON THE LITTLE ISLAND. THE BACK UP FEATURE WILL BE TO MEET THE FACES YOU MEET. SORRY, CRAIG.**

**ORDER ALL THREE - $6.00 POSTAGE PAID.**

# CHILDREN OF FIRE

NUMBER 2

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NO ONE HAS COME THROUGH THIS WAY BEFORE.
I WAS SHIPWRECKED. I NEED SHELTER.
OTHERS HAVE BEEN SHIPWRECKED. THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE WITH YOU.
AH LASS, GETTING OUT IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME. ... IF I HAD A LITTLE HELP.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I AM PUCCA. THEY MAKE ME DO THE COOKING HERE.
DO YOU MEAN IT? COULD YOU REALLY ESCAPE? ... AND TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU?
THAT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME, PUCCA. BUT I'M NOT READY TO GO YET.
I WANT SOMETHING. ... DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MASTER HIDES HIS TREASURE?

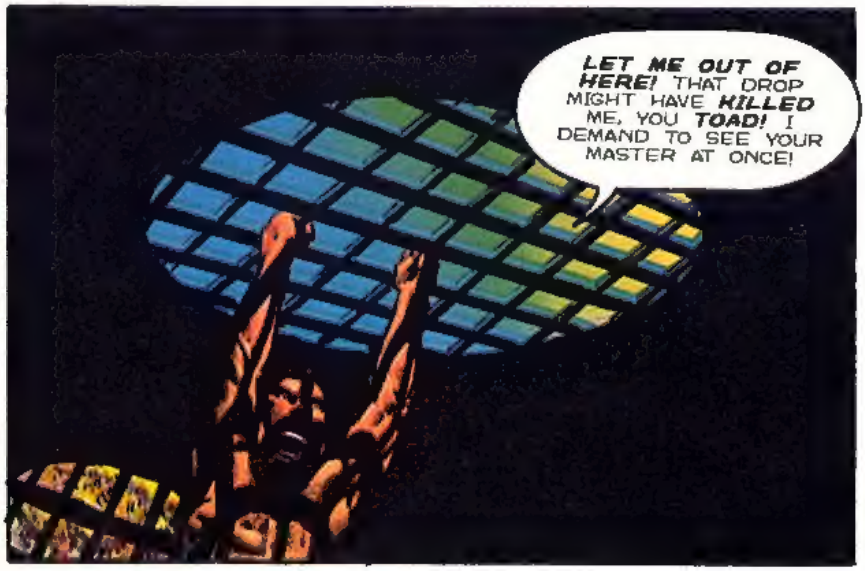
TAKE ME WITH YOU VAC. THEY KEEP ME AS A SLAVE HERE. SEE, THIS BAR IS LOOSE.
YES, I CAN GET IT. A SLAVE, EH? THERE'S A GOOD SLAVE MARKET IN KORDOC. THEY PAY WELL.

... SLAVE MARKET?
C'MON! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE DON'T YOU?

NOT TO BE SOLD IN A SLAVE-
YOO HOO! ARE YOU DOWN THERE?
SHH! SOMEONE'S THERE.

HELLO! I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS. THE HOIST DIDN'T WORK RIGHT AND THE ROPE SNAPPED AT A MOST INAPPROPRIATE MOMENT.

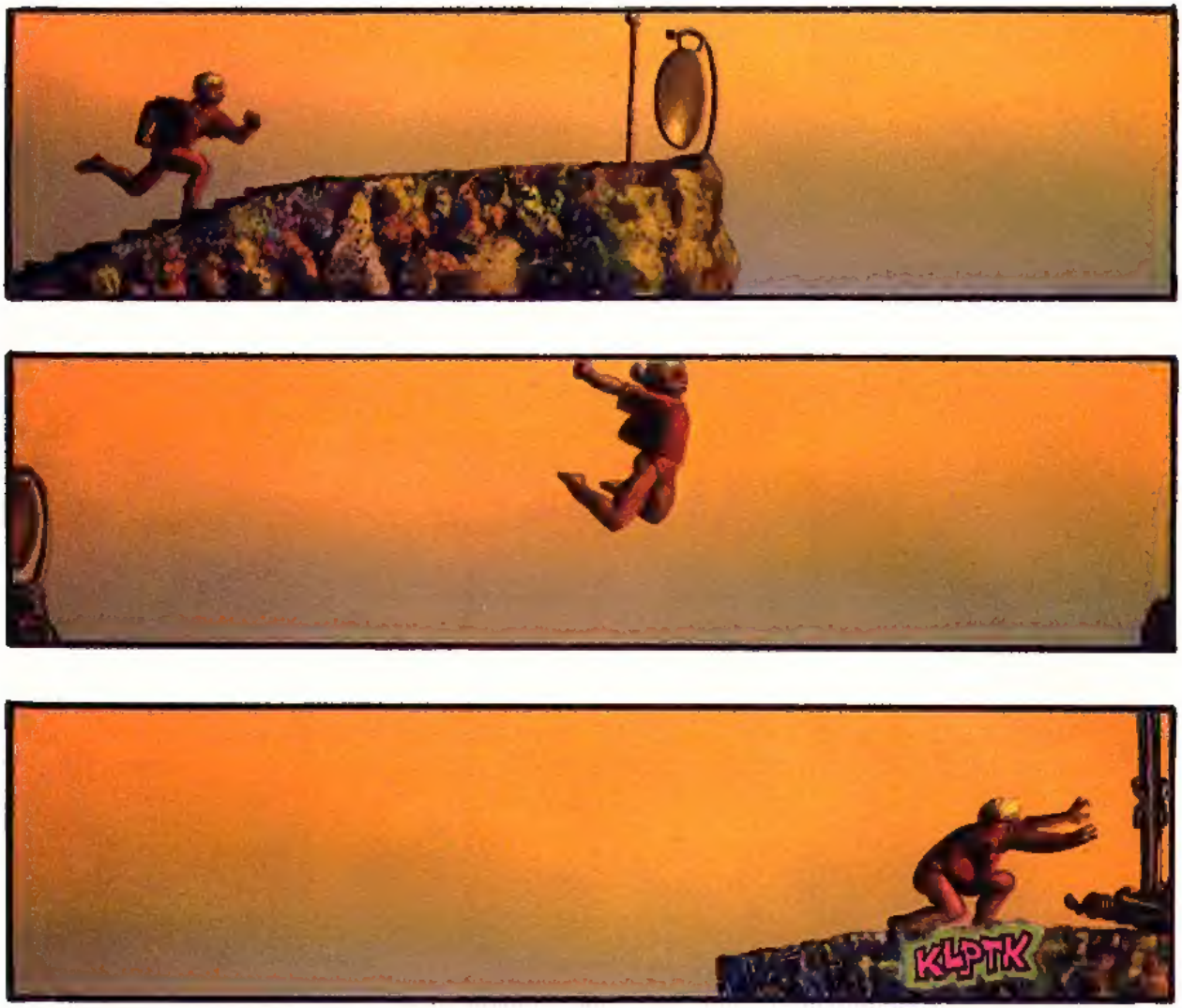
I'LL BE BACK SOON. BE READY TO GO ... OR ELSE!


LET ME OUT OF HERE! THAT DROP MIGHT HAVE KILLED ME, YOU TOAD! I DEMAND TO SEE YOUR MASTER AT ONCE!

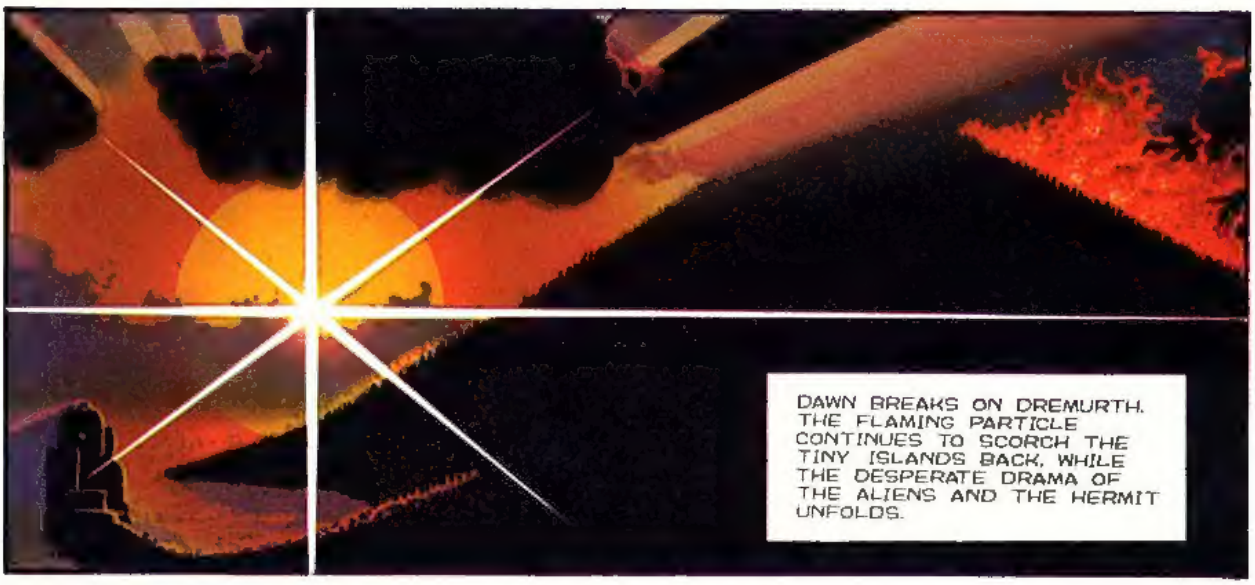
RELEASE ME!
YES SIR. PLEASE FORGIVE THIS TERRIBLE INCONVENIENCE.
I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE DON'T TELL MY MASTER OF THIS BLUNDER.
HE WILL SURELY KILL ME, IF YOU DO.
AND WHY SHOULDN'T I?
I CAN MAKE IT WORTH YOUR INDULGENCE, SIR.
MY MASTER HAS MANY TREASURES IN HIS COLLECTION ... INCLUDING THE FABULOUS NAR STONE. I COULD SEE TO IT THAT IT COMES WITHIN YOUR REACH.
OH? ... WELL IN THAT CASE.
MAY THE ELDER GODS OF MY ANCESTORS BLESS YOU SIR. COME, FOLLOW ME NOW. MY MASTER LIES IN A DRUGGED SLEEP.
HEH, HEH, HEH!
THE TREASURES ARE KEPT HIDDEN IN A SMALL CHAMBER, HIGH IN THE TOWER.
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF. I DARE NOT TOUCH THEM. MASTER ZEG WOULD HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE TRACING MY SCENT.

EH?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
A TRICK!
GAAUGH!
KRAK!
I'M SORRY SIR. SO THAT I MAY SAVOR THE TENDER FLESH OF THE COOK...
URK!
BRUK BRUK BRUK BRUK
YOU MUST DIE!
UNH!

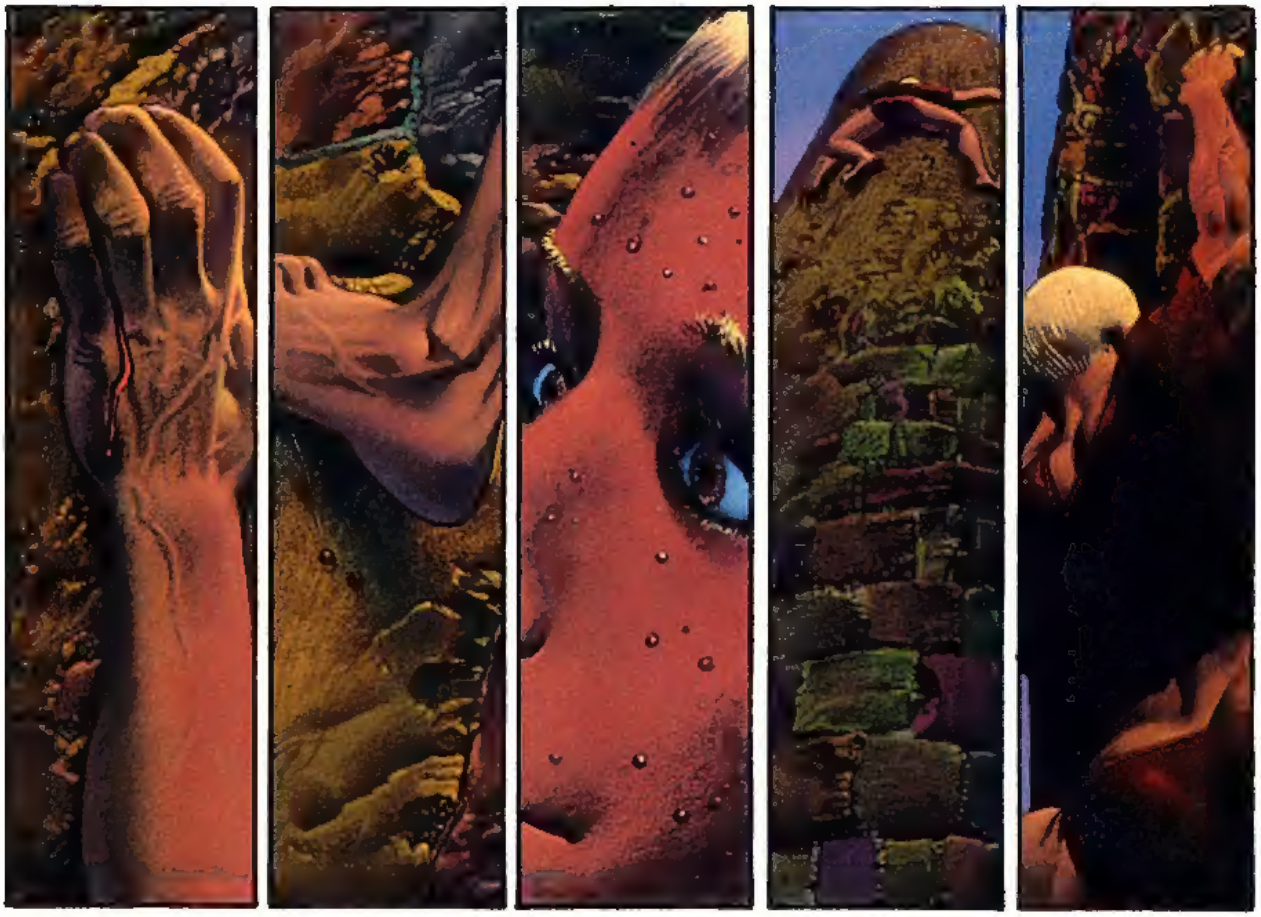
O HTONR HTEKE UKE SEGEKUQ EVVS QEWH. HTECKE ON HTOS ZAOQXONV.
HKC HI KESHKUON CIAK PUKHOUQ HENXENYOES. FE POVTH KEHKOEGE HTEP MEUYEWAQQC.
AAAAHH!
AAAAAAAH!
KBLDK
GRYCH!
SPLASH

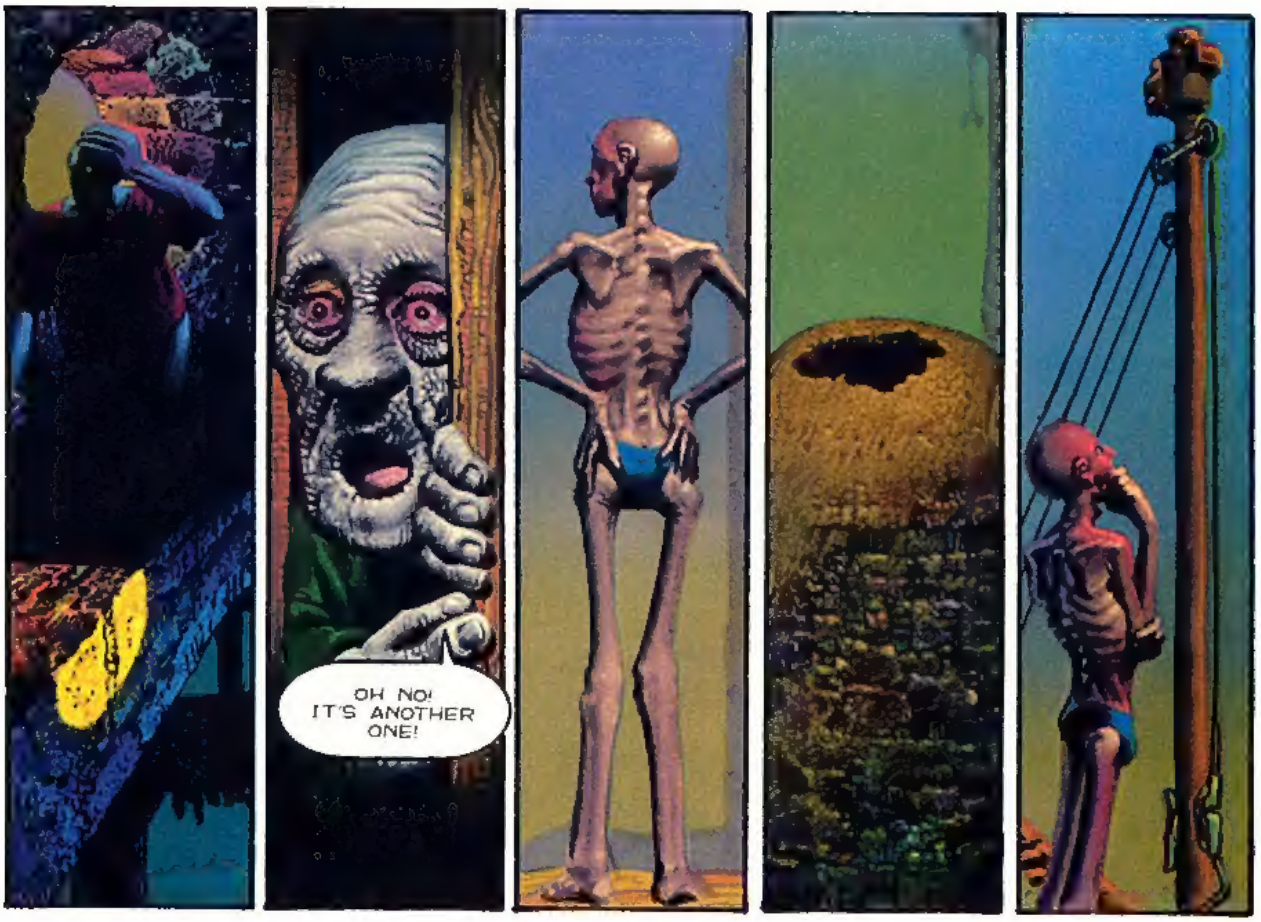

KLPTK
O'P HII FEUR HI PURE HTE JAPM.
O SPEQQ WIIX.
OP TANVKC.

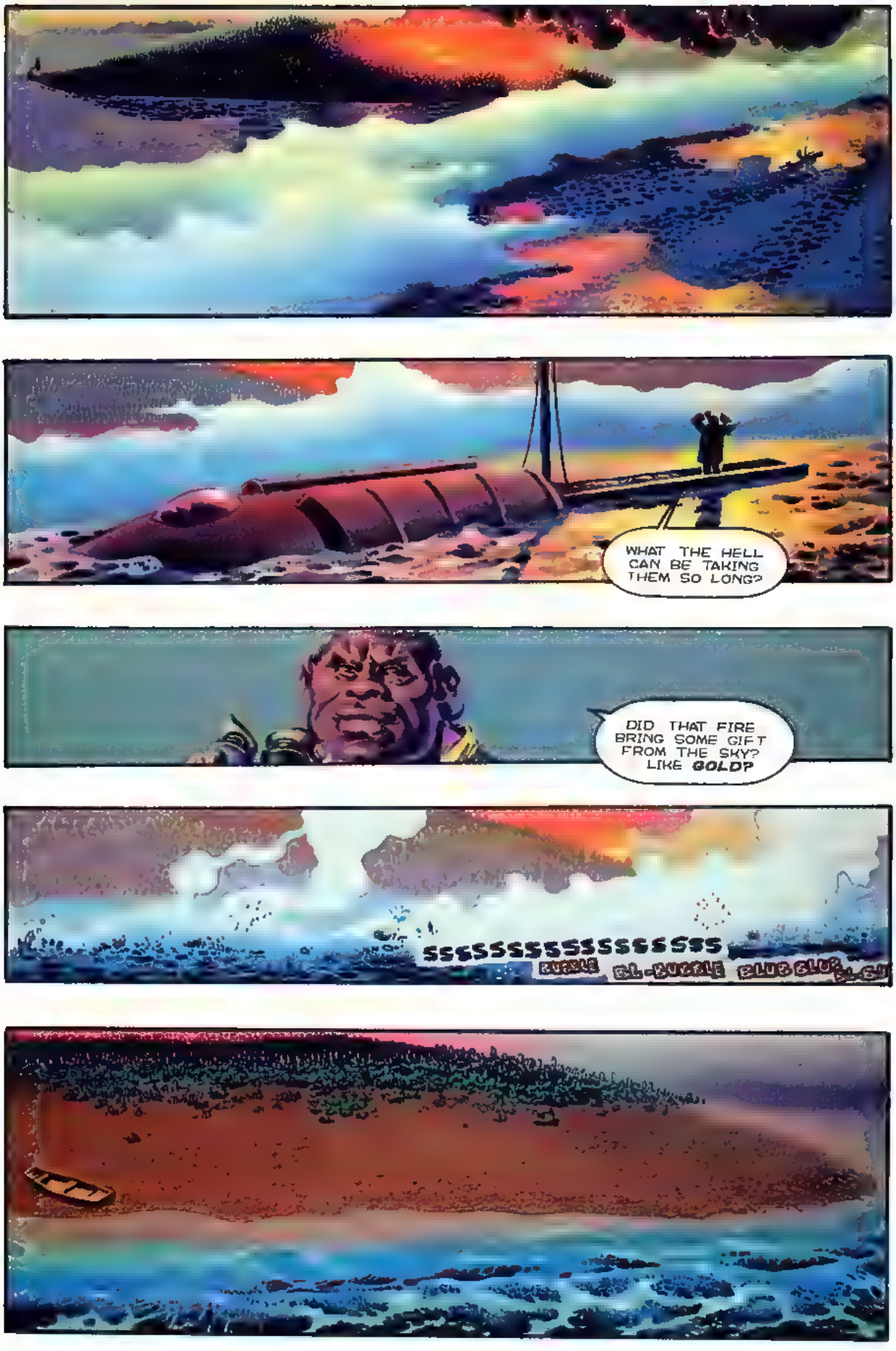
O'P SI FEUR UNX HOKEX...
O'QQ NEGEK PURE OH.
WIIX!
SPLASH!


DAWN BREAKS ON DREMURTH. THE FLAMING PARTICLE CONTINUES TO SCORCH THE TINY ISLANDS BACK, WHILE THE DESPERATE DRAMA OF THE ALIENS AND THE HERMIT UNFOLDS.

PANT, PANT, PANT!




OH NO!
IT'S ANOTHER
ONE!


WHAT THE HELL CAN BE TAKING THEM SO LONG?
DID THAT FIRE BRING SOME GIFT FROM THE SKY? LIKE GOLD?
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
BUBBLE
GL-BUBBLE
BLUB BLUB

TUGE CIA WIIX?
EEEEEH!
A CORPSE HAS RISEN TO SEEK REVENGE!
NO, NO! IT WANTS TO EAT HUMAN FLESH!
OH GOD, ME!
MQEUSE VOGE PE WIIX
BLUP

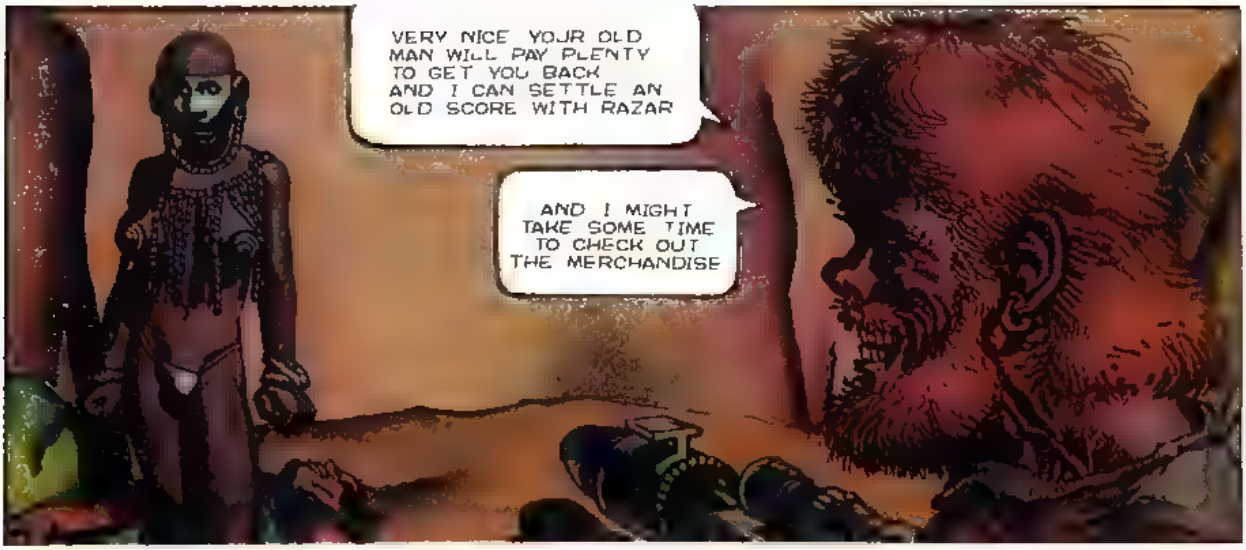
CHOMP SMACK MUNCH
WHAT? YOU'RE HUNGRY FOR JUST REGULAR FOOD?
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A DRINK, TOO
IT, CIAKE U SUONH. CIAGE SUGEX PC QOWE!
OP UWKUOX PC WKOENX KIL, OS IN U XIIPEX EKKUNX UZIGE O SENSE HTE EVVS UKE ZEONV LAOYRQC EDHONVAOSTEX, INE ZC INE
WHAT A STRANGE LANGUAGE YOU'RE SPEAKING I WISH I COULD UNDERSTAND
CIA UNX O PASH ESYUME
YOU MEAN ME.
AND YOU.
GO! I GET IT!

KAKA PHOOOM
XUNVEK!
MMM, THREE LEFT. MAYBE I'LL EAT ONE NOW AND THEN THE OTHERS WITH THE COOK, AFTER A NAP
ZOMUK! ZOMUK! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
AAH!
MASTER, ZOMUK KILL PIRATE NOW ZOMUK HAVE COOK!
YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING UNTIL YOU FINISH THE JOB!

TO BE CONTINUED

NECROMANCER
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WORN ALL THAT JEWELRY TO CROSS THESE WILD MOUNTAINS. THIS AREA IS INFESTED WITH THIEVES AND CUTTHROATS.
THESE TRINKETS ARE THE ONLY DOWRY I HAVE AND IT IS THE CUSTOM OF MY PEOPLE THAT I WEAR MY TREASURES. WITHOUT THEM, YOU LECHER, YOU'D BE LEERING AT MY MODEST SKIN
MLUBA, IT APPEARS THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE ENOUGH TO COVER YOU
STILL ENOUGH IS HIDDEN TO KEEP US TASTEFUL
YOUR LOGIC IS TENUOUS BUT I'M BEING PAID TO GUIDE YOU AND
-AND YOU SHOULD PROCEED WITH LESS MORALIZING. LOOK!
© RICHARD CORBEN 1972, 1987

WHAT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
IT'S GONE NOW IT WAS A GLINT FROM SOMETHING METALLIC.
THE SUN IS BAKING YOUR SKULL. THERE'S NOTHING
PAW
RAZARI GET UP!
HOLD IT GIRL!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME


VERY NICE YOJR OLD MAN WILL PAY PLENTY TO GET YOU BACK AND I CAN SETTLE AN OLD SCORE WITH RAZAR
AND I MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME TO CHECK OUT THE MERCHANDISE

RAZAR'S DEAD!
MY LORD KGOR WILL PAY FOR MY SAFE RETURN, BUT HE'LL KILL YOU IF IM ABUSED

AAH, NEVERMIND. LET'S GET OJT OF HERE

IT'S VULTURES FOR RAZAR!

UUNH!

OWW!
THAT OUTLAW PROBABLY PLANS TO RANSOM MLUBA TO HER FUTURE HUSBAND.
HMM THE TRAIL IS GETTING COLD THEIR LEAD IS INCREASING ABOUT TWO HOURS.

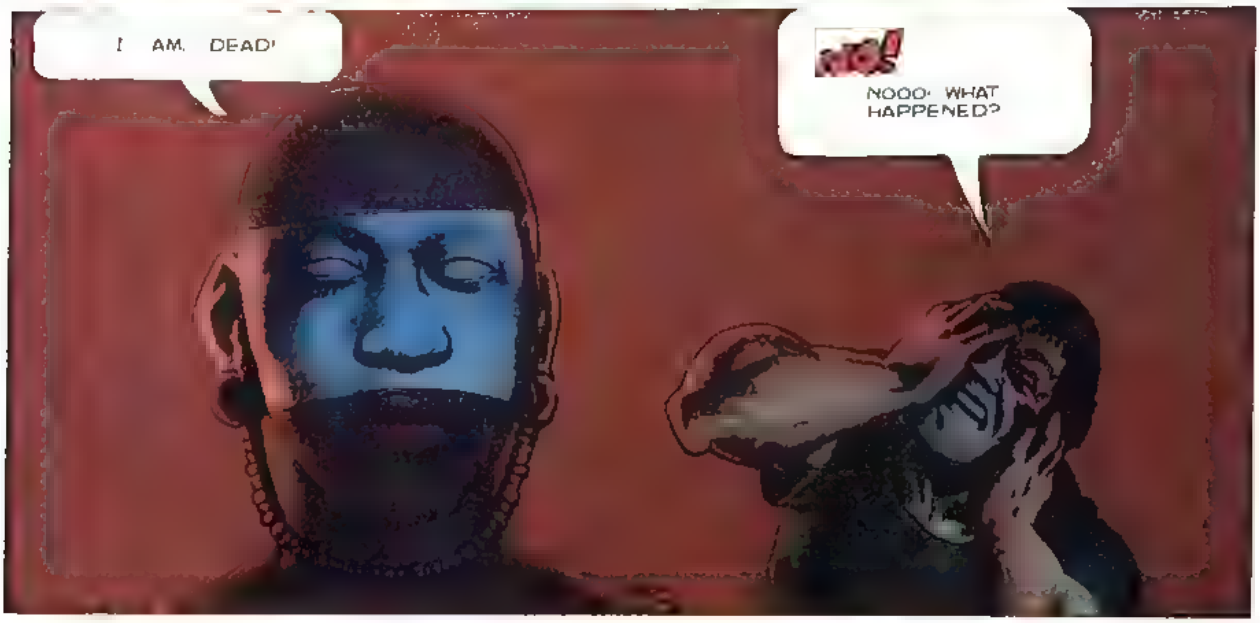
THERE'S THAT KIDNAPPER! IT'S GRITTLEGUM. HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING MLUBA AND I SINCE WE LEFT OBLAWNA
EEEEEEEEE
WHAM

GOD! HE'S GETTING UP! I FELT HIS NECK SNAP!
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU DIE?
GURGLE! I AM DEAD!
WHERE IS MLUBA?
CAN THIS BE THE LAIR OF A SORCERER?

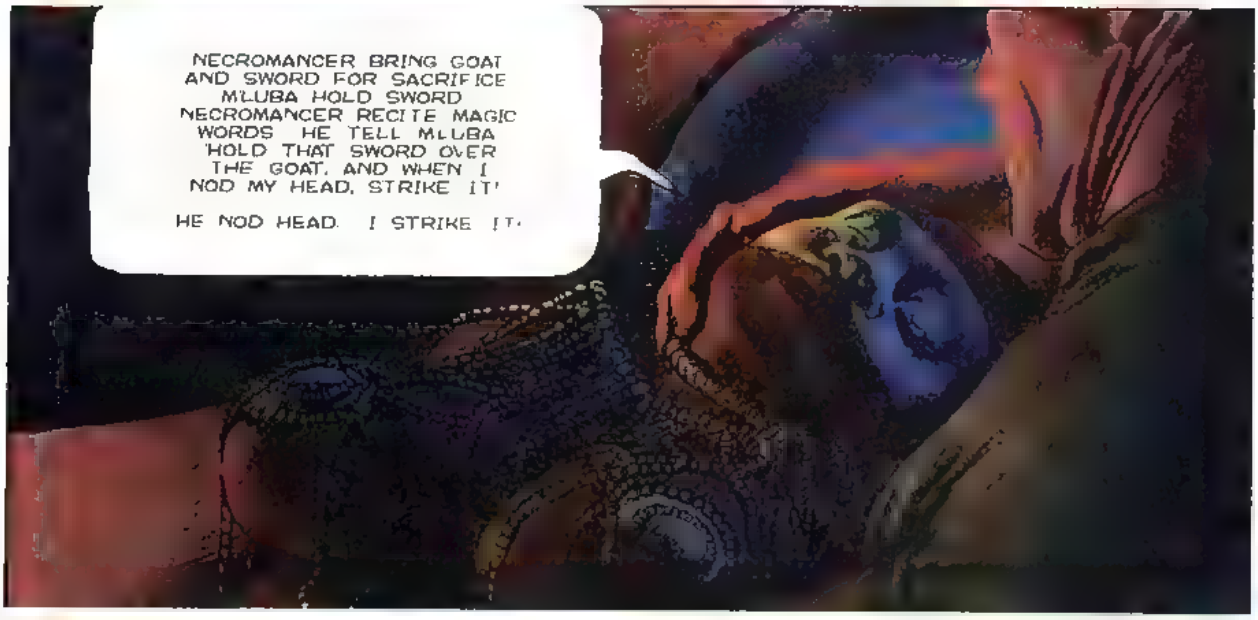
DESERTED!

BAA!
BAA!

MUDA
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?


I AM DEAD!
NOOO! WHAT
HAPPENED?

NECROMANCER CATCH US HE KILL MAN AND ME MAKE US OBEDIENT, DEAD SERVANTS
I ASSIST NECROMANCER TO CONJURE EVIL SPELL BRING UP DEMON
BUT HE'S DEAD

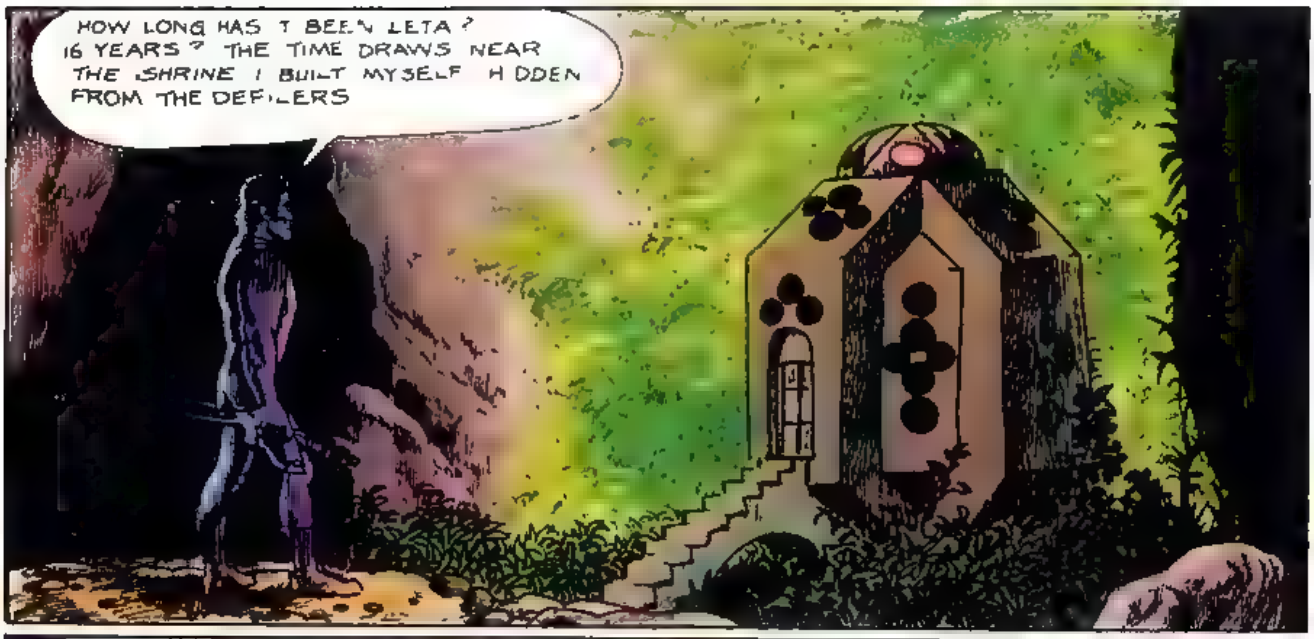

NECROMANCER BRING GOAT AND SWORD FOR SACRIFICE M'LUBA HOLD SWORD NECROMANCER RECITE MAGIC WORDS HE TELL M'LUBA 'HOLD THAT SWORD OVER THE GOAT, AND WHEN I NOD MY HEAD, STRIKE IT'
HE NOD HEAD. I STRIKE IT.

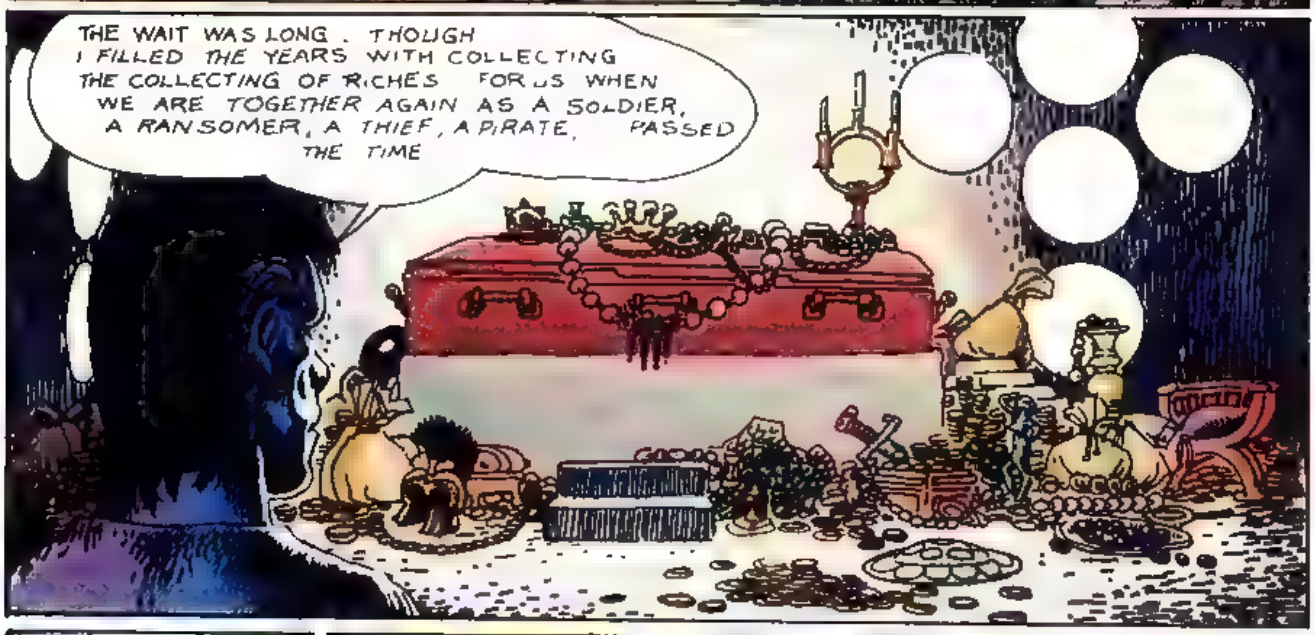
PEACE BE WITH YOU M'LUBA
GOODBYE
THE END

THE STORY OF
OTEG
FREELY ADAPTED FROM A JAPANESE FOLK TALE BY HARVEY DEA AND RICH CORBEN
©1970 RICHARD CORBEN
LOOK OTEG! A RIDER FROM THE WEST!
... PERHAPS A MESSENGER FROM THE KING, HE WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF OUR VICTORY!
OTEG! OTEG!
OTEG, SIRE, FORGIVE ME! I BEAR ILL NEWS! YOUR BETROTHED MALETA IS DYING!

GERIK, YOU TAKE COMMAND! WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN ARNL, TELL THE KING WHERE I AM!
HURRY HERE SHE CALLS FOR YOU!
MALETA!
OTEG, YOU'RE HERE I WAS AFRAID I WOULDN'T SEE YOU AGAIN.
MALETA, DONT TALK SO
PLEASE LISTEN MY LOVE. I MUST TELL YOU OF A DREAM BEFORE I DIE.
OH (CHOKE) LETA!
I DIED, JUST AS A GIRL CHILD WAS BORN, AND IT WAS ME YOU WAITED FOR ME AND I GREW UP, THEN WE MARRIED! WE LIVED A LONG HAPPY LIFE.

IT'S TRUE OTEG! IF YOU WAIT FOR ME, I'LL RETURN. I DO NOT FEAR DEATH, BECAUSE I KNOW WE'LL FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.
YES, I WOULD WAIT; BUT YOU WON'T DIE. WE'LL BE MARRIED SOON, MALETA! . MALETA
I'LL WAT
MALETA IS DEAD! I WILL BUILD A TEMPLE WHERE SHE CAN REST
GERIK
OTEG, THE KING WAS SAD TO HEAR OF YOUR TRAGEDY. HE HAS GENEROUSLY DECIDED TO SHARE THE TREASURES WE BROUGHT FROM DESARNA
IT WILL BE HEAPED UPON MALETA'S TOMB WHEN IT IS COMPLETE
DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AND FORTUNE AWAY FOR A DYING GIRL'S SICK DREAM
LEAVE MY PRESENCE OR DIE!!
VERY WELL; THIEVES AND GHOULS WILL HAVE YOUR SHARE


HOW LONG HAS I BEEN LETA ?
16 YEARS ? THE TIME DRAWS NEAR
THE SHRINE I BUILT MYSELF HIDDEN
FROM THE DEFILERS


THE WAIT WAS LONG . THOUGH
I FILLED THE YEARS WITH COLLECTING
THE COLLECTING OF RICHES FOR US WHEN
WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN AS A SOLDIER,
A RANSOMER, A THIEF, A PIRATE, PASSED
THE TIME

SOON,
MALETA

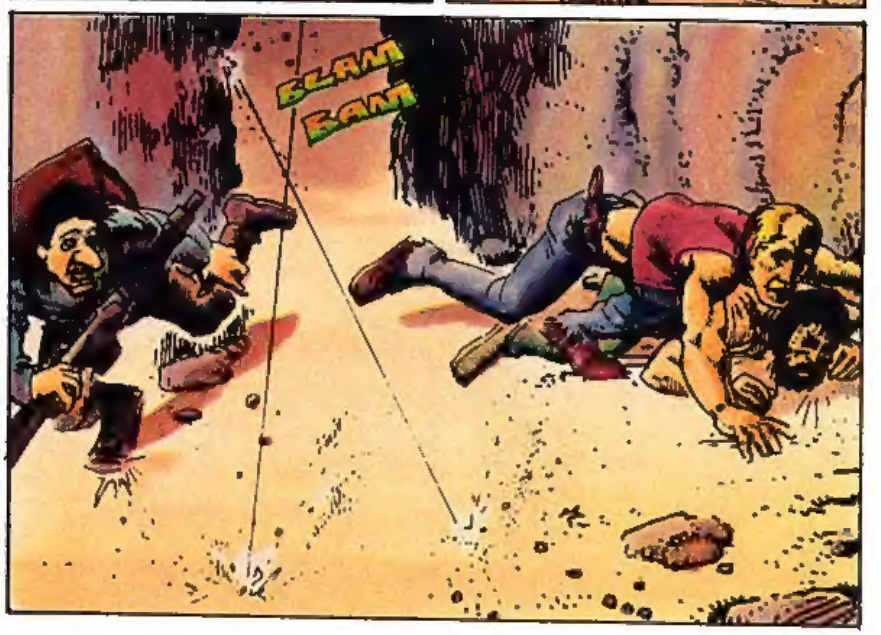
HE'S GONE
COM'ON!

YOU STAY OUT
HERE AND WATCH

WHAT HE SEES IN HER, I'LL NEVER KNOW!
LETS GO!

BLAM

LOOK OUT!
IT'S HIM!
BAM BAM


BLAM BAM

HE MUST'A GOT SORCA! ... AND LEMNOK!
GOD! HE'S GOT US TRAPPED IN HERE!
NO HE DON'T! YOU TWO WATCH THIS ENTRANCE. I'LL CLIMB OUTTA THIS HOLE AND GETEM FROM BEHIND.
'SPOSE THERE'S ANOTHER ENTRANCE!
BAM
AARGH!
SCUM!
OTEG! TURN AROUND
GERIK... YOU
YARGH

WHUD
BUMP
AAG!
JAB
CRICK
KRAK
UUUNNN
KRUNCH
KRUD
KRUD

MALETA!... WHERE ARE YOU?...
MY DARLING, I KNEW YOU'D COME.
I'M DYING MALETA, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT. ... CAUSE AS I DIE A BABY BOY WILL BE BORN; ME. WAIT LETA AND I WILL RETURN...
THUD
OH... OTEG, MY BELOVED, I TRIED TO COME BACK IN A BRAND NEW BODY ... BUT I COULDN'T.
BUT NOW WE WILL BE TOGETHER...
...IN DEATH!
THE END